

**MOST ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING  
The MAINE SCALLOP FISHERY  
2010/2011 Season**

**This document is meant only as a guideline to the most frequently asked questions about the scallop fishery. It does not include all laws and regulations. Questions should be directed to your local marine patrol officer or the Division Office at Lamoine 667-3373 or Boothbay Harbor at 633-9595.**

1. The Atlantic Sea Scallop harvesting season in Maine's territorial waters is open December 15, 2010 through March 27, 2011, both days inclusive, with the following exceptions:
  - A. A. In December 2010 and March 2011, fishing is prohibited on Thursdays and Fridays. Fishing is also prohibited on Saturday, December 25, 2010.
  - B. B. In January 2011 and February 2011, fishing is prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays.
2. Scallop Drag Configuration Requirements:
  - A. Current ring size in state waters is four inches.

**Configuration of Scallop Drag**

1. Minimum mesh size.
  - a. Twine top restrictions. The mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop dredge in use by or in possession of vessels in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery shall not be smaller than 5.5 inches (13.97 cm).
    - i. For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is greater than 8 ft (2.44 m) in width, there must be at least seven rows of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the terminus of the dredge (club stick) and the net material on the top of the dredge (twine top).
    - ii. For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is greater than 3.5 ft (1.07m) and less than or equal to 8 ft (2.44 m) in width, there must be at least four rows of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the club stick and the twine top of the dredge.
    - iii. For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is 3.5 feet (1.07 m) or less in width, there must be at least one row of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the club stick and the twine top around the circumference of the top of the dredge. The twine top must be hung on no more than two diamond meshes per ring on the top and bottom and a single diamond mesh per ring on the sides. Alternative designs may be approved by permit from the Commissioner.
2. Chafing gear and other gear obstructions.
  - a. Chafing gear restrictions. No chafing gear or cookies shall be used on the top of a scallop dredge.
  - b. Link restrictions. No more than double links between rings shall be used in or on all parts of the dredge bag, except the dredge bottom. No more than triple linking shall be used in or on the dredge bottom portion and the diamonds. Damaged links that are connected to only one ring, i.e., "hangers", are allowed,

unless they occur between two links that both couple the same two rings. Dredge rings may not be attached via links to more than four adjacent rings. Thus, dredge rings must be rigged in a configuration such that, when a series of adjacent rings are held horizontally, the neighboring rings form a pattern of horizontal rows and vertical columns.

- c. Dredge or net obstructions. No material, device, net, dredge, ring, or link configuration or design shall be used if it results in obstructing the release of scallops that would have passed through a legal sized and configured net and dredge, as described in this part, that did not have in use any such material, device, net, dredge, ring, or link configuration or design.
3. There is no night time harvesting of scallops by any method. Scallop fishing may take place between sunrise and sunset only.
4. Drag widths shall be measured from the extreme outside of the drag.
  - A. Cobscook Bay 5' 6" drag width, not greater than eight rings deep.
  - B. Gouldsboro Bay 4' 6" drag width.
  - C. Blue Hill Bay 8' 6" drag width.
  - D. Swans Island Lobster Conservation Area 8' 6" drag width.
  - E. Kittery Area 5' 6" (See Regulations, Chapter 11, for Specific Area)
  - F. A 10' 6" drag is the largest drag allowed in Maine's Territorial Waters.
5. Shellstock size is 4". All sub legal shellstock must be liberated immediately.
6. It is unlawful to fish for, take or possess more than 200 pounds of scallop meats per day per vessel in Maine's territorial waters (transiting exceptions exist for vessels fishing in federal waters). It is unlawful to unload any portion of a day's catch and return to fishing in Maine's territorial waters. Note: this is a per vessel limit.
7. Non commercial scallop licensees may not possess more than 1 bushel of shellstock or 2 quarts of shucked scallops on any one day.
8. The license holder must be on board when a vessel is engaged in scallop fishing.

#### Cobscook Bay Limits and Restrictions.

- A. Cobscook Bay.
  - (1) Shellstock ratio to meat count.

For the purposes of 12 M.R.S.A. §6728, one and a half bushels of shellstock shall be equal to one gallon of scallop meat.
  - (2) Possession limit.

Except as allowed pursuant to Chapter 11.19(B), no vessel or person may take, possess or transfer more than fifteen gallons of scallop meat or any aggregate of meat and shellstock, which is greater than the equivalent of fifteen gallons of meat.
  - (3) Daily limit.

Any vessel which has taken scallops within the restricted area of Cobscook Bay, as defined by 12 M.R.S.A. §6728(1), may not land scallops and return to fishing for scallops within that restricted area on the same day.
  - (4) Harvester Meat Count

Except as allowed pursuant to Chapter 11.19(B), no vessel or person may take, possess or transfer shucked scallops which measure more than 35 meats per 16

oz. certified measure from or within the Cobscook Bay Restricted Area, as defined by 12 M.R.S.A. §6728(1).

#### 10. Conservation Closed Areas: Scallop Closed Areas

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess scallops taken by any method within any of the following closed areas. All directions are relative to True north (not magnetic).

##### Transiting exception:

Any vessel possessing scallops onboard, may transit these closed areas, only if the vessel has all fishing gear (dredges, drags) securely stowed. Securely stowed shall mean the main wire shall not be shackled or connected to the dredges or drags, and the towing swivel will be at block or on the winch.

##### (1) Casco Bay Area:

South of a line drawn from the most southwestern point of Basin Point (Harpwell) to the northeastern tip of Jewell Island, and south and east of a line drawn from the southern tip of Jewell Island due south to the 3-mile limit, as identified on National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration nautical charts and west of a line drawn from Gun Point (Harpwell) due south to the 3-mile limit. Also, the waters between and to the north of Basin Point and Gun Point bounded by the Route 24 Gurnet Bridge (Harpwell).

##### (2) Damariscotta/Sheepscot Area:

South of a line drawn from the most northeastern point of Dogfish Head to the most northeastern point of Macmahan Island, and south of a line drawn from the most northwestern point of Macmahan Island to the most northeastern tip of Soldier Point and south and east of the Southport Island Bridge. Then north and east of a line drawn from the most southwestern point of Indian Point to the most northeastern point of Salter Island, and east of a line drawn from the most southwestern tip of Salter Island to the most northwestern point of Sequin Island. Then north of a line drawn from the most southern point of Sequin Island to Bantam Rock, north and west of a line continuing to the most southern point of Pumpkin Island, continuing to the Outer Heron Island Ledge Buoy, continuing to the most southeastern point of Thrumcap Island, following the shoreline to the most southwestern point of Thrumcap Island, and west of a line drawn from this point to the most southern tip of Shipley Point, following the western shoreline of Rutherford Island. Also, west of the South Bristol Bridge, and south of a line drawn from the most southern tip of Jones Point to the most northeastern tip of Montgomery Point.

##### (3) Muscongus/Western Penobscot Area:

###### Western Line:

North and east of a line beginning at the intersection of Latitude 43° 55' N on Pemaquid Neck (just north of Brown's Cove, Bristol), and following this latitude to its intersection on the east shore of Mosquito Island, St. George, then southeast to the southern tip of Metinic Green Island, then due south to the 3-mile limit.

Eastern Line: Starting at the northern end of the Rackliff Island causeway then in a southerly direction to the most southern point of Rackliff Island continuing to the most southern point of Whitehead Island then to the southern end of Two Bush Island and continuing in a southeast direction to the Foster's Ledges Buoy R N"10", then due South to the 3-mile limit.

##### (4) Eastern Penobscot Area:

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The Eggemoggin Reach southeast of the Deer Isle Bridge and north of a line starting at the southern most tip of Naskeag Point, Brooklin, then southwest to the most southeastern point of Stinson Neck, Deer Isle AND north of a line starting at the most southwestern tip of Stinson

Neck, Deer Isle running west to Coles Point on Whitmore Neck, Deer Isle; this includes all of Southeast Harbor.

Lower Jerico Bay:

South of a line starting at Lower Head, Marshall Island then running southwest to the northern end of Little Spoon Island and from the south end of Little Spoon Island due south to the 3-mile limit AND west of a line starting at the eastern most part of Devils Head, Marshall Island continuing southeast to the most eastern point of Heron Island then onto the RW "BC" whistle buoy, then due south to the 3-mile limit.

(5) Blue Hill Harbor/Morgans Bay Area:

North of a line drawn from Stills Point, Blue Hill Neck to the most northern point of Long Island, and north of a line drawn from the most northern point of Long Island to the most southwestern point of Newbury Neck.

(6) Mt. Desert Area:

All of Somes Sound and east of a line starting at Bass Harbor Head then in a southeast direction to the most easterly Point of Great Gott Island continuing on south to the three mile line and west of a line starting at the most eastern side of Otter Pt. MDI continuing True South to the 3-mile limit.

(7) Gouldsboro Bay Area:

Inside and north of a line starting a Young's Point, Corea east to the end of Dyer Pt. in Steuben.

(8) Jonesport/Machias Area:

(a) The Reach: East and north of a line starting at the most eastern end of Tibbett Island then east to the most northern end of Ram Island then on to the most western end of Slate Island and west of a line starting at the end of the breakwater Sawyer's Cove the southeast to the most western end of Pig Island and then due south to the closes point of land of Great Wass Island.

(b) Chandler Bay/Englishman's Bay: North of a line starting at the Roque Island Cable Area running between Jonesport and Roque Island and north of a line starting at the most northeastern point of Great Head, Roque, Island; then northeast to the most southern end of Shoppee Point, Roque Bluffs.

(c) Machias Area: North and east of a line starting at Bucks Head, Machiasport proceeding east to the southern end of Northwest Head on Cross Island then due south to the 3-mile line, and west of a line drawn due south from Great Head, Cutler to the 3-mile limit.

(9) St. Croix River Area:

North and east of a line drawn from the Gleason Point, Perry east to the US-Canada border.

(10) Whiting Bay and Denny's Bay Area:

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take scallops and or urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting Bay and Denny's Bay. This section Chapter 11.10(1)(H)(10) sunsets May 1, 2012.

(11) Scallop and Urchin Conservation Closed Area

Whiting Bay and Denny's Bay Area:

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take scallops and or urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting Bay and Denny's Bay.

All rules pertaining to the Maine scallop fishery are available in Chapter 11 of DMR's Regulations. Laws and regulations are available on line at [www.maine.gov/dmr/lawsandregs.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/lawsandregs.htm).